

I want to talk today about an example of discrimination that we witnessed in southwestern Pennsylvania last year, and I want to let the American people know about three local men who took a stand against it at that time. Their names are Bruce E. Dice, Esquire, Dr. Anthony Brusca, and Wayne E. Smith, Jr. These men risked the disapproval and ostracism of their peers to battle what they perceived to be a discriminatory act.

Last summer, Mr. Dice, an attorney from Plum Borough, and Dr. Anthony Brusca, a dentist from the nearby town of Murrysville—both members of the Edgewood Country Club—sponsored Mr. Edwin L. Edwards's application to become an associate member at that club. Mr. Edwards is a highly respected local businessman—the owner of a local television station—who has attended the Edgewood Country Club as a guest for many years. He also happens to be an African-American.

The Edgewood Country Club, one of the oldest country clubs in western Pennsylvania, at that time had no black members. Even before Mr. Edwards's application was officially submitted, Mr. Dice began receiving anonymous threatening phone calls opposed to the admission of African-American members. Subsequently, racist graffiti was written on Mr. Dice's locker. Despite unanimous approval by the club's membership committee and conversations with board members suggesting that their response to Mr. Edwards's application would be favorable, the club's board of directors rejected Mr. Edwards's membership application.

Mr. Edwards and his sponsors were surprised and upset by the vote. Cases in which the board had rejected an applicant recommended by the membership committee were rare, if not nonexistent.

A number of people went to bat for Mr. Edwards, however. Mr. Smith, for example, resigned from his position as vice president of the country club's board of directors in protest. Mr. Dice and Dr. Brusca stood behind their sponsorship of Mr. Edwards. The local chapter of the NAACP threatened to boycott the country club.

As a result of these actions, the board voted to admit Mr. Edwards. Many members of the Edgewood Country Club have since welcomed Mr. Edwards warmly.

Mr. Edwards's attorney, Dwayne Woodruff, captured the essence of the issue in a statement about two of Mr. Edwards's supporters that could apply to any of his supporters in this affair: "They stood up for what was right. A lot of times that's tough because sometimes you're standing by yourself."

All too often the fight against discrimination is a lonely, painful experience. It is often much easier to look away, to ignore such unpleasantness, or to back down in the face of open, virulent hostility than to press ahead and confront these attitudes and actions. That is what makes people who take that difficult stand so special—and so deserving of our attention and praise.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Dice, Dr. Brusca, and Mr. Smith for their integrity, their perseverance, and their strong sense of justice. If all Americans would respond in a similar manner, we could move a long way towards realizing a truly just society.

## CAMPAIGN REFORM AND ELECTION INTEGRITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

**HON. VINCE SNOWBARGER**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 30, 1998*

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased that Congress is focusing attention on reform of our campaign and election system. There are many problems worthy of our best efforts, and this bill contains a number of thoughtful remedies championed by reformers of all stripes. Among those reforms that I have advocated are efforts to curtail illegal foreign contributions and new restrictions that safeguard the paychecks of union members. These were a part of my own campaign finance reform proposal, H.R. 3315. That is why I am voting for the separate bills that accomplish these aims.

Although these are very good ideas, I am concerned about some aspects of the bill we consider today. Because H.R. 3485 is a compromise, it is weak in addressing every Member's "first principles" for campaign finance reform. However, I want to use this opportunity to call attention to one issue I feel has been most egregiously ignored.

Individual and candidate accountability is required. As I am sure all of my colleagues are aware, Republicans and Democrats frequently take to the floor of the House to decry the failure of one group or another to take responsibility for their actions. Whether it is Republicans demanding that fathers take responsibility for their children or Democrats who call on industry to account for the impact their activities have on the environment, this principle is regularly invoked on behalf of our constituents. I believe it is now time for Congress to do what it has long asked of others. We all must assume personal responsibility for our own campaigns.

How should we accomplish this? I believe the first step is real punishment for candidates and their surrogates who intentionally break our campaign finance laws. Earlier this year I introduced the "Fair Elections and Political Accountability Act" (H.R. 3315) which has as its chief aim real personal accountability. Put simply, this bill sends the bad guys directly to jail. No more of the Faustian bargain: "Cheat to get elected and worry about the fines later." Such an environment creates a disincentive to obey the law. My bill mandates prison terms for intentional violations and strengthens the enforcement powers of the Justice Department and the Federal Election Commission. Swift and certain criminal sanctions will make all the other reforms work better. I asked Chairman THOMAS to include these provisions in the campaign reform measure reported to the House. I am disappointed that they were omitted. As long as candidates think that they can break the law with impunity, it doesn't matter how many new laws and regulations we pass. We must first address this question of accountability.

## CENTENARY OF THE BIRTH OF STEPHEN VINCENT BENET

**HON. PAUL McHALE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 1, 1998*

Mr. McHALE. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak today about a favorite son from my very own hometown. This year marks the centenary of the birth of the noted American writer, Stephen Vincent Benet.

One of his friends said of him that he was "more conscious of being American than any man I ever knew." And he was certainly very American. He did not think America was perfect; He strove always to heal its imperfections. But, even with its imperfections, he believed it was worth serving, as a Grail Knight served his ideal. He thought America was the best hope for the oppressed and downtrodden in the history of the world. That was the ideal he served and it is an ideal to which we should all serve.

Benet was born July 22, 1898 in Fountain Hill, Pennsylvania, just a few blocks from my own birthplace. He went on to embrace and be embraced by all of America.

His father was a distinguished Army career officer, Colonel James Walker Benet; his grandfather was Brigadier General Stephen Vincent Benet. Both men made distinguished contributions to Army Ordnance, and General Benet was Army Chief of Ordnance for 17 years.

There is no doubt that the younger Stephen Vincent Benet would have followed his father and grandfather into the service if he could have; he always called himself an Army man. But poor eyesight and painful, progressive arthritis plagued him all of his life, making military service out of the question.

Instead, he turned to writing. When his great Civil War epic "John Brown's Body" was published in the late 1920's he became a national hero and won the Pulitzer Prize. More than 600,000 copies of the book were sold in short order.

And they were read and cherished. During World War II a correspondent encountered an American officer who carried "John Brown's Body" with him everywhere, even into battle.

Benet's reputation increased among Americans because of the short stories he published. You have all heard of "The Devil and Daniel Webster," but there were many others. They were carried by many of the most popular magazines of the 1920s and 1930s, and were eagerly awaited by thousands of avid readers.

During the 1930s he watched with dismay the steady advances of Nazism, Italian fascism and Japanese imperialism. Such stories as "Blood of the Martyrs" and "Into Egypt" revealed his ardent commitment to individual liberty and his deep sympathy with the oppressed.

When the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into World War II, Benet made a momentous decision: Since he had no other way to serve, he would put his talent to work by writing for the American and Allied cause. Although he was criticized for his choice, then and later, he stuck to his principles.

In the few years that remained to him, he turned out such powerful works as the radio